

Sgt. Randee Stewart...Recruiter of One!

by Sgt. First Class Darren Patterson—Public Affairs Supervisor

Sgt. Randee Stewart was awarded the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team Coin (SMART) for his efforts in recruiting new soldiers not only into the Army Reserve, but also into the 100th Division Band.

Members of the Army Reserve's 100th Division Band gathered for a military formation on a chilly Saturday morning at Fort Knox, not only to plan for the weekend duty, but also to recognize one of their own as an outstanding soldier.

"He is a Recruiter of One!" joked his fellow musician minutes before the presentation. As the unit formed for the presentation First Sergeant Sheri Barksdale asked the crowd, "OK, who in here has Randee NOT recruited?" Only one or two hands were raised of the more than two dozen band members.



Before the presentation, many soldiers were unaware of the SMART program. Basically, the program is an initiative, which rewards soldiers for their role in recruiting new members into the US Army. Recipients of the award receive a certificate and a coin from the Sergeant Major of the Army. Any soldier who refers an applicant that results in an enlistment into the Regular Army or Army Reserve will receive a certificate from the Sergeant Major of the Army. Any soldier whose referrals result in three enlistments will receive a coin from the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Why does Sgt. Stewart devote extra time to recruit new members? "It's a good deal!" Stewart exclaimed. "It is a unique opportunity for citizens to serve their country while being a musician."

Stewart, who has been a citizen-soldier for more than 10 years, learned about the SMART program on the Internet while surfing Army Recruiting and Retention websites. He is a self-employed website developer. In his spare time he talks to young people at high school presentations about service to country and what it is like to be a musician in the Army Reserve. On average, he spends about an hour a day recruiting. His efforts are focused on bringing in new band members. However, if he finds prospective members with other interests besides becoming a musician, he refers them to the recruiter that can help the prospective member the best.



Command Sergeant Major David Belcher presents Sergeant Randee Stewart his certificate, rewarding him for his diligent efforts in recruiting on behalf of the US Army Reserve

"My wife is part of the team," notes Stewart. "With her also being a citizen-soldier in the 100th Division Band, I get a lot of support." "Recruiting is my passion," said Stewart, "But, I could not do it full-time." "I could not leave my small business."

The 100th Division Command Sergeant Major David L. Belcher presented the Sergeant Major of the Army Coin on behalf of the Sergeant Major of the Army. During his presentation, Belcher, who is also the former Division Command Retention Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, said jokingly, "I'm jealous, I don't have one of SMA Tilley's coins!"

Stewart, the Army Reserve singer and trombone player, wants to make sure everyone who is interested gets the chance to learn about the benefits of serving in his unit.

"I never thought I would get this award," he said, "I hope it motivates others to do the same as I have."